

# Learning New Skills Is Fun at Youth Hoops Camp on Island

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High School team to the 2001 Class D state championship before transferring to South Haven. "That's why half of the camp is just contests. It doesn't matter if it is in South Haven or if it is on the Island, we want them to have fun so they will want to continue to play basketball. That's our main goal."

Baskets were lowered from 10 feet to eight feet for the first and second grade students, so they could learn to shoot. Tape on the court marked places for the best shots in competition and for lay-up footwork.

The drills, Mr. Cornett said, are similar to those he uses for varsity basketball practice at South Haven.

Fundamentals apply to everyone, he noted.

"I am doing a lot of the same things as everyone else, just with my personal take on it. At South Haven, we are really strict on the way we do everything, but here, on Mackinac Island, we know the children are going to be coached by somebody else, so we give them the basics, knowing that a particular coaching style could be different than mine."

The Cornetts agree that their students on Mackinac Island are eager to learn.

"There are always going to be



**Todd Fridline stands in the triple-threat basketball position after receiving a pass Thursday, July 26, at the camp at Mackinac Island Public School, run by Sam and Rita Cornett from South Haven. Todd won a number of trophies for left-handed dribbling, dribble tag, and free throw shooting.**

kids who want to learn, and kids who don't," Mrs. Cornett said.

"Generally, these kids always

want to learn, and they come back each year. They even arrive to the gym an hour before the camp starts every day. Nobody is ever late."

Mr. Cornett considers them all close friends of the family.

"It's unbelievable," he said, "to watch them all grow up and progress like they do. They just all mature so much every year."

It takes about seven years to

develop a basketball program, Mr. Cornett believes, and when he arrived at South Haven six years ago, he got younger children interested in the game, so they would be ready to compete in high school.

"This year," his wife said, "we will finally start reaping the benefits of kids having played since they were seven years old."

At the camp on Mackinac Island, all the participants received trophies, and additional trophies went to competition winners in such areas as right-

and left-handed dribbling, free-throws, and team contests. Anthony Rickley received the camper of the week award for being on time and striving to improve his skills.

For the Cornetts, the Mackinac Island camp serves as a vacation, and their four children, Mark, Todd, Sammy, and Katie, come with them. They like the fudge shops and visiting their Island friends.

"Our kids just love this," Mrs. Cornett said. "They love being in the gym, too, and they are definitely gym rats."

## Dr. Spitzer Invites Rev. Plummer

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time was a great opportunity for everyone," Dr. Spitzer said. "Over the years, we have invited members of the community to our Passover Seders and to our Sukkah for the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall. We feel that better understanding leads to greater peace in the world."

Rev. Plummer's sermon is open to Christians and Jews, because he said his message relates to both.

"We have found that there are many on the Island who have openly welcomed our congregation," Dr. Spitzer said. "Pastor Plummer is a powerful speaker and we don't actually know the subject of his sermon, but we feel it will invigorate the local Jewish community and help further promote interfaith communication and understanding."

On the east coast, said Island shop owner Jack Landres, the Christian and Jewish communities have begun to work together.

"In my temple in Virginia, we

invite local churches to our services, and they invite us to theirs. We all believe in the same God, why shouldn't we get along?"

"The Christian community on the Island has welcomed us with open arms, including us in anything that requires thoughts and prayers. . . We, in turn, are willing to help out the Christian community with anything they might need. Having Pastor Plummer come to speak is nice because we have some mutual ideas on supporting Israel against its enemies, and so having him speak regarding some of that is nice to hear."

Rev. Plummer notes that the idea of a black Christian pastor preaching at a Jewish service can lead to skepticism, but said he can overcome that.

"Sometimes, after groups hear me speak, they have left either exhilarated, or some in good tears," he said. "It has really been a wonderful experience in the Jewish community."



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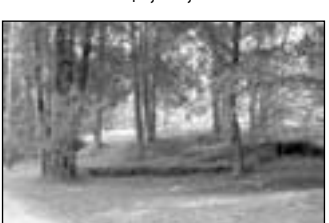
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